

MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT



Office of Public Information

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JUDGE GARY MCDONALD MOURNED BY MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT, MICHIGAN COURT OF APPEALS

LANSING, MI, January 14, 2004 – Court of Appeals Judge Gary R. McDonald, who served on that court from 1987 until his resignation in January 2003, was “a fine judge: precise, articulate, and fair,” said Michigan Supreme Court Chief Justice Maura D. Corrigan.

McDonald, who died at age 63 on January 9, was remembered today at a memorial service at St. Mary Cathedral in Saginaw.

Michigan Court of Appeals Chief Judge William C. Whitbeck said that McDonald “served the people of Michigan with great distinction. Governor Blanchard appointed him to the Court of Appeals on February 27, 1987, and the voters of his judicial district elected him three times, in 1988, 1994, and 2000. Before coming to the Court of Appeals, he distinguished himself as a practicing lawyer, district court judge, and circuit court judge.”

Corrigan noted that six of the seven Michigan Supreme Court Justices served on the Court of Appeals with McDonald. “In addition, all of us had the pleasure of knowing him as a person,” she said. “His was a warm, affable presence.”

McDonald suffered a heart attack and stroke in July 2001. Whitbeck said McDonald and his family “faced those events, and their aftermath, with great dignity and courage.”

Corrigan said, “We have lost a respected colleague. His family has the profound sympathies of the Supreme Court and of the Court of Appeals.”

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